

MINUTES  
MIGRANT AND SEASONAL FARMWORKERS BOARD MEETING

April 21, 2005

The Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers Board meeting was held at 10:00 a.m. at the Sheraton Park South Hotel, Richmond, Virginia.

The following Board members were present: Kenneth Annis, Chairman; Mario Moreno, Vice Chairman; Sharon Saldarriaga; J.M. Scott; Elisia Almendarez-Moore; Richard Cagan; Alisha Herrick; Christian Schweiger; J. Kelly Robinson; Veronica Donahue. The following Board members were absent: Thomas Kellum; R. Hart Hudson; Adrian Reddington. Virginia Employment Commission staff present were: Dolores Esser, Commissioner; Jack Turner; Monitor Advocate; Michelle Castellow; Rural Services Manager; Joyce Fogg, Public Relations Manager; Sam Shaw, Staff Assistant. The following guests and speakers were present: The Honorable Robert S. Bloxom, Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry and Bruce Clark, Department of Labor.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Chairman called the meeting to order 10:05 a.m.

Chairman Annis introduced Ken Robertson, Director of Human Resource Management Services at the Virginia Employment Commission. Mr. Robertson spoke briefly to the Board about the Conflict of Interest Act, which requires appointed and elected officials to file a financial disclosure statement with the Secretary of the Commonwealth, to comply with the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Mr. Robertson informed that Board that he will be sending the financial disclosure statements to Board members and the Virginia Employment Commission would send the forms to the Secretary of the Commonwealth.

Chairman Annis introduced and welcomed the Board's newest member, Alisha Herrick.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chairman Annis moved that the agenda be approved. Mr. Moreno seconded the motion and the agenda was approved by a unanimous vote.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chairman Annis moved that the minutes of the December 1, 2004 meeting be approved. Mr. Cagan noted a correction on page 2 in paragraph 3. With no further edits, the minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

**LEGISLATION: FEDERAL AND STATE**

Ms. Saldarriaga reported that the federal AgJobs legislation did not pass, and was unable to produce sufficient votes to stop cloture. There is strong bi-partisan support for the bill,

however many legislators would like to see it passed without being attached to the Real I.D. bill (Senate version).

Mr. Moreno commented that there are a number of bills regarding immigration, including a McCain-Kennedy bi-partisan version. Additionally, Mr. Moreno noted that the Real I.D. bill has provisions that would greatly impact the agricultural areas in the state. The Senate version of the Real I.D. bill contained many immigration provisions in contrast to the House version, which prompted a cloture vote that failed to pass.

Mr. Annis halted discussion on federal and state legislation to welcome the Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry Robert S. Bloxom.

Secretary Bloxom thanked Chairman Annis and the Board for inviting him to the meeting. The Secretary briefed the Board on the duties of the newly created position of Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry. The cabinet level position oversees the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Department of Forestry, the Virginia Agricultural Council and the Virginia Marine Products Board.

## **REPORT: WAGE AND HOUR**

Bruce Clark, District Director, U. S. Department of Labor, Wage and Hour Division presented information on the wage and hour report. (Presentation attached.)

## **OLD BUSINESS**

It was requested that letters be prepared from the Board to:

- The Latino Advisory Committee expressing concerns this Board had discussed at the December meeting, and
- A letter in support of Telamon's application to the Department of Labor for funding to operate the National Farmworker Jobs Program.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Board members were invited to attend the International Association of Workforce Professionals Conference also being conducted at the Sheraton Park South. No one signed up for the public comment period.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There was no further business; the meeting adjourned.

